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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
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| 09/741,665 | 12/18/2000 | William B. Douglas | Essent.01USU1 | 7055 |
| 27479 7590 06/18/2007 COCHRAN FREUND & YOUNG LLC 2026 CARIBOU DR SUITE 201 FORT COLLINS, CO 80525 | | | EXAMINER DUNHAM, JASON B | |
| | | | ART UNIT 3625 | PAPER NUMBER |
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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/741,665

Applicant(s)

DOUGLAS, WILLIAM B.

Examiner

Jason B. Dunham

Art Unit

3625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 March 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21, 24, 26, 27 and 36-38 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-21, 24, 26, 27 and 36-38 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on March 29, 2007 has been entered. Claims 19-21, 24, 26-27, and 36-38 are pending. Applicant amended claims 19 and 36-38.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 19-21, 24, 26-27, and 36-38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giovannoli (US 2006/0015413) in view of Walker (US 2002/0178069).

Referring to claim 19. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker discloses a method of selling goods through an electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system comprising:

Art Unit: 3625

- Receiving product information for said goods that is uploaded by distributors, who are not manufacturers of said goods, over a network to said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system which includes product identification information and a set price specified by said distributors for said goods (Giovannoli: figure 4);
- Automatically calculating a fixed sales price from said set price specified by said distributors in said electronic blind supply open commerce computer system (Giovannoli: figure 4);
- Automatically generating entries in said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system that included said fixed sales price, and said product identification information (Giovannoli: figure 4);
- Providing a listing of said goods from said entries on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system without revealing said distributors so that said distributors remain anonymous to purchasers at all times while said goods are listed on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system and after said goods are sold, so that said distributors may sell said goods on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system without affecting a pricing structure established by said distributors for said goods (Walker: paragraph 40);
- Making said listings of said goods available to said purchasers on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system through a network

Art Unit: 3625

connection to allow said purchasers to purchase said goods at said fixed sales price over said network without bidding in an auction (Giovannoli: figure 4).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have modified the method of Giovannoli to have included providing a listing of goods without revealing the distributors, as taught by Walker, in order to enable sellers to sell goods at a discount without fear of undercutting their published price structure (Walker: paragraph 40).

Referring to claim 37. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method comprising:

- Automatically accepting a sales order on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system from a qualified purchasers that includes a purchase price that satisfies said fixed sales price (Giovannoli: figure 8);
- Automatically generating a purchase order on said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system in response to said sales order that includes said product information and said set price specified by said distributor for said goods (Giovannoli: paragraph 22);
- Electronically transmitting said purchase order to said distributor from said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system (Giovannoli: paragraph 22);
- Completing that sale of said goods using said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system (Giovannoli: paragraph 23).

Referring to claim 20. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method wherein said process of completing the sale of said goods comprises the process of paying said distributor after said purchaser accepts said goods (Giovannoli: paragraph 23).

Referring to claim 21. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method wherein said process of completing the sale of said goods comprises the process of accepting a shipping tracking number, shipping method, and ship date (Giovannoli: paragraph 22).

Referring to claim 24. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method wherein said process of completing the sale of said goods comprises the process of accepting an electronic funds transfer (Giovannoli: paragraph 23).

Referring to claim 36. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method wherein said process of completing the sale of said goods comprises the process of automatically e-mailing purchase orders from said electronic blind supply open commerce computer business system (Giovannoli: paragraph 22).

Referring to claims 26-27. The combination of Giovannoli and Walker further discloses a method wherein said process of automatically generating entries in said system comprises the process of generating a listing of goods that includes product information comprising a part number, product description, specifications, and category information (Giovannoli: figure 8).

Art Unit: 3625

Referring to claim 38. Claim 38 is rejected under the same rationale set forth above.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-21, 24, 26-27, and 36-38 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jason B. Dunham whose telephone number is 571-272-8109. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8-5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Smith can be reached on 571-272-6763. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3625

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

NAEEM HAQ
PRIMARY EXAMINER



JBD
Patent Examiner
6/7/07